



CASELOAD EXITS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: OCTOBER 2017 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2018

Alyssa Gross & Lisa Thiebaud Nicoli

Maryland's Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) caseload has steadily declined since 2012, reaching another record low at the end of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 (Maryland Department of Human Services, 2019). This continued decline is likely due, at least in part, to continued recovery from the Great Recession and Maryland's consistently low unemployment rate. While the state unemployment rate was 4.2% in October 2017, it dropped down to 3.8% in September 2018 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). Improved economic conditions reduce the need for programs like Temporary Cash Assistance, and a decline in TCA cases typically means there are fewer cases to close, resulting in a decrease in closed cases during the same time period.

Examining case closure characteristics and trends provides context for which types of cases leave the program as well as the reasons for case closures. This context is useful for policymakers and program administrators because it provides information about programmatic and economic factors that may influence case closures. This helps policymakers and administrators better serve TCA recipients. For example, while cases close for many reasons, noncompliance with the work requirement has been the most common reason for the last 11 years. Noncompliance with the work requirement refers to an adult recipient who does not cooperate with the federal requirement to participate in work activities in order to receive assistance. There are also some cases that are exempt from work requirements. These cases often close for different reasons than cases that are subject to the work requirement. Additionally, case characteristics and closure reasons vary greatly across Maryland's 24 jurisdictions.

This report, the latest edition in the *Caseload Exits at the Local Level* series, examines characteristics of TCA cases that closed in Maryland during FFY 2018,¹ which is the one-year period from October 2017 to September 2018. We assess these characteristics at the state level, as well as how they vary across the 24 jurisdictions.

KEY FINDINGS

- ❖ There were 17,244 closed cases in 2018, the lowest number since welfare reform in 1996 and a 9% decrease from 2017.
- ❖ Most closed cases had one adult recipient and one or two child recipients.
- ❖ On average, closed cases received TCA for just under one year consecutively. Cumulatively, they received TCA for slightly less than two of the previous five years, on average.
- ❖ Almost 70% of cases were work-eligible, and just over 30% were work-exempt.
- ❖ Non-compliance with the work requirement was the most common case closure reason.
- ❖ Noncompliance with child support maintained a historical high at 7%, a sizeable increase since 2016.

¹ All years refer to the federal fiscal year unless otherwise noted.

Methods

This report examines every TCA case that closed in Maryland between October 2017 and September 2018, regardless of the length of closure (n=17,244). Cases may close multiple times during the year, but each case is only included in the data set once. For cases with multiple closures during the year, one closure is randomly selected for inclusion. Thus, the counts of closures in this report do not match the counts kept by Maryland's Department of Human Services (DHS). Data on open TCA cases, included in some tables, is drawn from the population of cases receiving TCA for at least one month in state fiscal year 2018 (n=28,203) (McColl & Passarella, 2019).

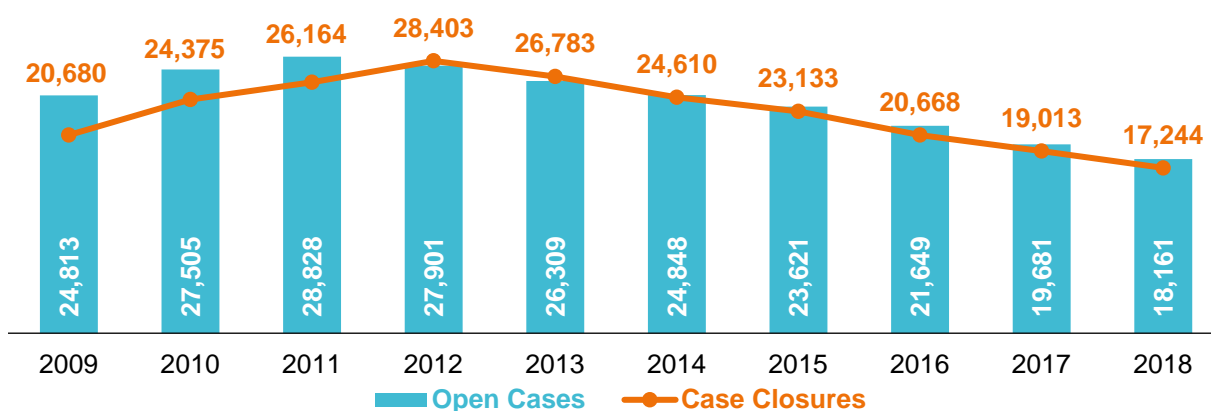
Analyses in this report are based on data from the Client Automated Resources and Eligibility System (CARES), an administrative database maintained by the state of Maryland. CARES provides

individual- and case-level program participation data for recipients of TCA. This report discusses findings for the state and the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. State-level data are included in the body of the text, and full jurisdictional data are provided in the appendix.

Closed Cases over Time

In 2018, Maryland's TCA program experienced a continued decline in the number of closed cases. Figure 1 displays the unique number of closed cases and the average number of open cases in each year from 2009 to 2018. The trends in the number of closed cases and open cases are often similar. Since 2012, the number of closed and open cases have decreased statewide. In 2018, Maryland had 17,244 closed cases, which is the lowest number since welfare reform in 1996 and represents a 9% decrease since 2017. Open cases have decreased 8% since 2017. Between

Figure 1. Statewide Closed Cases and Open Cases by Federal Fiscal Year: 2009 to 2018



Note: The annual number of closed cases is a count of unique assistance units receiving TCA that closed during the specified federal fiscal year, which is a one-year time period that begins in October of the previous calendar year. For example, FFY 2018 represents the months of October 2017 through September 2018. The annual number of open cases represents an average of the number of cases receiving TCA in each month of the given year and was obtained from the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) Statistical Reports (<http://dhs.maryland.gov/business-center/documents/>)

2012 and 2018, the number of closed cases decreased by 39%, and the number of open cases decreased by 35%.

One factor that helps explain these trends is Maryland's economy. Poor economic performance caused by events like the Great Recession is correlated with more families using assistance programs like TCA. Conversely, when the economy is doing well, fewer families tend to seek out assistance, leading to declines in both open and closed TCA cases. After the Great Recession, poor economic conditions caused unemployment in Maryland to rise, reaching a high of 7.8% in the beginning of 2010 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). During this time, there was an increase in open and closed cases for several years beginning in 2007 (Gleason & Passarella, 2017). Figure 1 starts in 2009, when the caseload was increasing during the recession.

The economy has steadily recovered and improved since 2010. The unemployment rate declined to 7.0% in December 2011 for the first time in almost three years, and it decreased even further to 3.8% by 2018 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). TCA caseloads and closed cases gradually fell with the unemployment rate.

In addition to state-level analyses, analyzing changes in case closure characteristics at the jurisdictional level provides insight for local program managers and administrators. This information can indicate unique situations in jurisdictions or regions. Table 1

shows the change in closed cases by jurisdiction from 2017 to 2018.

Maryland's most populated jurisdictions have the most open and closed cases, so their trends largely affect the statewide totals and percentages. Baltimore City's closed cases account for two in five of Maryland's closed cases, and Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Anne Arundel County combined account for about three in four of the state's closed cases.

Each of these five largest jurisdictions experienced declines in their number of closed cases in 2018. Baltimore City's (-13.4%) and Baltimore County's (-10.6%) decreases in closed cases exceed the state average (-9.3%), while Prince George's (-4.9%), Montgomery (-2.4%), and Anne Arundel (-5.5%) counties experienced declines well below the state average. Cecil County (-15.7%) and Queen Anne's County (-15.3%) also experienced large decreases. Overall, 18 jurisdictions experienced declines in closed cases.

The number of closed cases increased from 2017 to 2018 in five jurisdictions. Three of the five jurisdictions experiencing increases in closed cases in 2018 are located on the Eastern Shore: Caroline County (+6.5%), Worcester County (+14.9%), and Talbot County (+1.7%). Additionally, Harford County (+15.2%) and St. Mary's County (+8.6%) also experienced increases during this time period. Calvert County is the only jurisdiction whose number of closed cases remained the same in 2017 and 2018.

Table 1. Change in the Number of Closed Cases by Jurisdiction
FFY 2017 to FFY 2018

	Total Closures FFY 2017	Total Closures FFY 2018	Percent Change & Difference in Closures
Baltimore City	7,961	6,898	-13.4% (-1,063)
Baltimore County	2,412	2,156	-10.6% (-256)
Prince George's County	1,755	1,669	-4.9% (-86)
Anne Arundel County	1,180	1,115	-5.5% (-65)
Montgomery County	964	941	-2.4% (-23)
Washington County	687	609	-11.4% (-78)
Wicomico County	524	484	-7.6% (-40)
Harford County	402	463	15.2% (+61)
St. Mary's County	405	440	8.6% (+35)
Cecil County	433	365	-15.7% (-68)
Howard County	393	347	-11.7% (-46)
Allegany County	338	302	-10.7% (-36)
Frederick County	308	293	-4.9% (-15)
Charles County	330	289	-12.4% (-41)
Somerset County	144	129	-10.4% (-15)
Carroll County	137	123	-10.2% (-14)
Dorchester County	134	122	-9.0% (-12)
Caroline County	92	98	6.5% (+6)
Calvert County	95	95	0.0% (0)
Worcester Country	67	77	14.9% (+10)
Queen Anne's County	72	61	-15.3% (-11)
Talbot County	60	61	1.7% (+1)
Kent County	62	59	-4.8% (-3)
Garrett County	53	48	-9.4% (-5)
Maryland	19,013	17,244	-9.3% (-1,769)

Case Characteristics

Examining open and closed case characteristics, like the number of recipient children or adults and the length of TCA receipt, can provide context for the types of cases that enter and exit the TCA program. This information can help program managers better understand the cases in their jurisdictions. Table 2 displays characteristics of closed cases in 2018, based on the month of closure, and for open cases from state fiscal year 2018, based on the first month of receipt in the year.

Statewide, the characteristics of open and closed cases are quite similar. Close to half of all open and closed cases had only one

recipient child, just over one quarter had two recipient children, and just under one quarter had three or more. Less than 5% had no recipient children.²

At the jurisdictional level, closed cases with only one child recipient were most common for all but two jurisdictions.³ The range also varied, with Dorchester County having the lowest percentage of closed cases with one child recipient (33.6%) and Kent County having the largest (52.5%). Notably, Kent County had the smallest percentage of such cases in the prior year.

Although a majority of both open and closed cases had one adult recipient, the percentage with one adult recipient was

Table 2. Case Characteristics: Statewide

	Closed Cases FFY 2018 (n=17,244)	Open Cases SFY 2018 (n=28,203)
Recipient Children		
0	2.8% (481)	3.7% (1,034)
1	44.8% (7,725)	46.5% (13,114)
2	28.0% (4,833)	27.7% (7,810)
3 or more	24.4% (4,205)	22.1% (6,243)
Recipient Adults		
0 (Children only)	20.1% (3,470)	30.3% (8,555)
1	75.2% (12,960)	65.7% (18,517)
2	4.7% (814)	4.0% (1,129)
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell	11.0 [5]	12.6 [3]
Average [Median] in Previous 60 Months	23.1 [18]	22.1 [15]

Note: Cases can have zero children in the assistance unit if the mother is pregnant with the only recipient child, or the only children in the household receive Supplemental Security Income, subsidized adoption payments, or foster care payments (Maryland Department of Human Services, 2008).

² The few cases falling in this category are often expectant mothers or other special circumstances.

³ In Somerset County, the most common number of recipient children on closed cases was three or more

(38.0%). The percentages of closed cases in Dorchester County with one child recipient (33.6%) and two child recipients (33.6%) were identical.

higher among closed cases. Fully 75% of closed cases had one adult recipient, compared to 66% of open cases. Cases with no adult recipients, called child-only cases, made up one in five closed cases (20.1%) and three in 10 open cases (30.3%). Because child-only cases are not subject to federal work requirements, they generally close once the recipient child ages out of eligibility. This results in lengthier periods of TCA receipt than cases with an adult recipient (Passarella, 2018).

The percentage of closed cases with no adult recipient varied widely at the jurisdictional level. Baltimore City had the smallest percentage (15.6%) of child-only cases, and Caroline County had the largest (44.9%). Child-only cases are particularly common among Upper Shore counties. Caroline, Talbot, and Queen Anne's counties have the top three highest percentages of cases with no adult recipients, though these three counties combined only had 220 closed cases.

In addition to similarities in case composition, open and closed cases are also similar when it comes to the length of time they receive TCA. Table 2 shows the average spell⁴ of continuous TCA receipt and the average number of months of receipt in the last five years for open and closed cases. On average, both open and closed cases received TCA continuously for around one year and cumulatively received benefits for slightly less than two out of the previous five years. The averages for closed

cases remained about the same as they were in 2017, while the averages for open cases indicate a slight increase from 2017.

Although the average TCA spell among closed cases was 11 months, spell length varied across jurisdictions. Charles County had the shortest average spell length (8.9 months), and Caroline County had the longest (18.5 months). Caroline County has had the longest average spell length for the past three years.⁵ On number of months of receipt in the last five years, Talbot County had the lowest number of months of receipt in the past five years (16.3 months), while Baltimore City had the highest (26.1 months).

Caseload Designations

In order to manage TCA cases, the Maryland Department of Human Services assigns each case a caseload designation based on information in the administrative data system. These designations are given through a hierarchical classification system that allocates only one designation to each case, even if multiple designations may apply. These caseload designations fall under two broad categories: work-eligible and work-exempt. The adults on work-eligible cases are required to participate in work-related activities as a condition of receiving assistance. In contrast, work-exempt cases either have no adult recipients, or those adult recipients are not subject to the work requirement.

⁴ A TCA spell is defined as the number of consecutive months that a family received cash assistance.

⁵ This trend is likely related to Caroline County also consistently having a high percentage of child-only

cases. These cases are not subject to work requirements or time limits, generally resulting in longer TCA spells.

Table 3. Caseload Designations: Statewide

	Closed Cases FFY 2018	Open Cases SFY 2018
Work-Eligible Cases	68.6% (11,827)	56.0% (15,788)
<i>Included in Federal WPR</i>	<i>64.3% (11,078)</i>	<i>52.3% (14,726)</i>
Single-Parent Cases	50.2% (8,651)	43.0% (12,119)
Earnings	10.1% (1,747)	4.5% (1,269)
Short-Term Disabled	2.3% (392)	3.4% (959)
Domestic Violence	1.7% (288)	1.3% (379)
<i>Other Work-Eligible Cases</i>	<i>4.3% (749)</i>	<i>3.8% (1,062)</i>
Two-Parent Household	3.4% (594)	2.9% (821)
Legal Immigrant	0.9% (155)	0.9% (241)
Work-Exempt Cases	31.4% (5,405)	44.0% (12,392)
Child-Only	20.1% (3,470)	30.4% (8,576)
Child Under One	7.2% (1,235)	8.7% (2,439)
Caring for Disabled HH Member	3.0% (517)	3.3% (939)
Needy Caretaker Relative	1.1% (183)	1.6% (438)

Note: Federal WPR stands for Federal Work Participation Rate.

Work-Eligible Cases

Just over two out of every three (68.6%) cases that closed in 2018 were work-eligible, and this has remained roughly the same since 2016. Work-eligible cases made up a smaller percentage of open cases (56.0%) because these cases are more likely to close than work-exempt cases.

The percentages of work-eligible closed cases varied greatly at the jurisdictional level. St. Mary's County had the highest percentage of work-eligible closed cases (74.3%). While only six of the 24 jurisdictions were above the state average, Baltimore City, the largest jurisdiction, had the second highest percentage of work-eligible closed cases (73.9%), and Baltimore County, the second largest jurisdiction, had just over 70% as well. On the other end of the spectrum, smaller, rural counties typically had lower percentages of work-eligible closed cases.

Statewide, the percentage of work-eligible cases decreased by less than one percentage point from last year, and most jurisdictions experienced negligible change. Baltimore City's percentage of work-eligible cases remained roughly the same as the previous year, as did Prince George's County. Additionally, 14 other jurisdictions experienced changes of less than three percentage points. The counties with the biggest changes had the smallest number of closed cases. Worcester and Caroline Counties each increased by seven percentage points, while Garrett County decreased by 19 percentage points, and Kent County decreased by 10 percentage points.

Work-Eligible Caseload Designations

Within the work-eligible cases category, closed cases are further broken down into specific designations. Half (50.2%) of all

Work-Eligible Cases

Cases in which an adult is subject to work participation requirements

Single-Parent Cases

Traditional TCA cases with a single parent

Earnings Cases

Client has earnings below the eligibility threshold

Short-term Disabled

A member of the assistance unit has a disability lasting less than 12 months

Domestic Violence

A victim of domestic/family violence who receives a good cause waiver for certain requirements

Two-Parent Cases[^]

Two able-bodied adults who share a child

Legal Immigrant[^]

Qualified immigrants who do not meet the requirements to receive federally-funded TCA

[^] These cases do not receive federal TANF funding and are not included in the federal work participation rate.

closed cases were designated as single-parent, and one in 10 (10.1%) were designated as earnings cases. Both of these caseload designations were less common among open cases (McColl & Passarella, 2019).

The remaining four designations collectively comprise of less than 10% of closed cases: short-term disabled (2.3%), domestic violence (1.7%), two-parent household (3.4%), and legal immigrant (0.9%). These designations are unsurprisingly less common among closed cases because they are also less common among open cases. Cases designated as short-term disabled, domestic violence, two-parent household, and legal immigrant comprised less than 10% of open cases in 2018 (McColl & Passarella, 2019).

Closed cases had considerable variation at the jurisdictional level among these work-eligible caseload designations. For

example, 20 jurisdictions' most common caseload designation was single parent cases. For single-parent cases, 17 of the 24 jurisdictions fell within 10 percentage points of the state average (50.2%). The seven counties outside of this range all fell below 40%, and six out of seven of these were small, rural counties. Caroline County had the smallest percentage (27.6%) of single-parent cases, and Baltimore City had the largest (57.2%).

For earnings cases, 14 of the 24 jurisdictions had percentages between 8% and 12%, including larger jurisdictions like Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County. Calvert County had the highest percentage (22.1%), and Allegany County had the lowest (3.6%).

The remaining work-eligible caseload designations are consistently less common among closed cases. There are only two instances of any of these designations constituting 10% or more of a jurisdiction's closed cases. Around 10% of closed cases in Garrett County and Montgomery County were two-parent cases. However, 16 of the 24 jurisdictions fell within three percentage points of the state average for two-parent cases (3.4%).

Nine jurisdictions had no closed cases with the short-term disabled designation, and only three counties—Frederick (6.1%), Harford (4.8%), and Howard (4.3%)—had a percentage exceeding 4%. Nine jurisdictions had no closed cases under the legal immigrant designation. Other than in Montgomery County (4.6%), less than 2% of closed cases in any jurisdiction were classified as legal immigrant cases. Domestic violence cases are also rare, as they constituted less than 3% of closed cases in 19 jurisdictions.

Work-Exempt Cases

Work-exempt cases are generally less common than work-eligible cases, making up roughly three in 10 (31.4%) closed cases in 2018. This percentage has remained about the same since 2016. Additionally, work-exempt cases make up a larger percentage of open cases (44.0%) as these cases are exempt from work requirements and are thereby much less likely to close.

While work-exempt cases are less common at the state level, this varies greatly by jurisdiction. For example, Caroline County had more work-exempt (57.1%) cases than work-eligible (42.9%) cases. Also, 18 of the 24 jurisdictions had percentages of work-exempt closed cases that were larger than the state average (31.4%). Most of these jurisdictions were smaller, rural counties. In addition to Caroline County, Talbot County (49.2%), Worcester County (48.1%), Queen Anne's County (44.3%), and Garrett County (43.8%) all had percentages that were well above the state average.

At the other end, Baltimore City (26.1%) and Baltimore County (28.3%) both had below-average percentages of work-exempt closed cases. Because these are the largest and second largest jurisdictions, they heavily influence the state average.

Work-Exempt Caseload Designations

The most common work-exempt caseload designation is child-only, which accounted for one in five (20.1%) closed cases. It was also the most prevalent work-exempt designation in every jurisdiction. In four jurisdictions—Caroline (44.9%), Talbot (36.1%), Garrett (35.4%), and Worcester (33.8%) counties—child-only cases were the most common designation among all cases. Caroline County had the largest

percentage of child-only cases (44.9%), while Baltimore City had the smallest (15.6%). Of the 24 jurisdictions, 17 were above the state average (20.1%) for their percentage of child-only cases. As with work-exempt cases generally, the counties with above-average percentages of child-only cases tend to be smaller, rural counties, and Baltimore City (15.6%) and Baltimore County (19.4%) had below-average percentages.

The other work-exempt caseload designations collectively made up just over one in 10 closed cases: child under one (7.2%), caring for a disabled household member (3.0%), and needy caretaker relative (1.1%). These designations were about equally uncommon among open cases in 2018, totally 14% of all open cases.

These remaining three work-exempt designations were similarly less common among jurisdictions. Child under one cases ranged from less than 2% in Queen Anne's County (1.6%) to over 10% in Charles County (13.5%), with a state average of 7%. Cases in which the recipient was caring for

Work-Exempt Cases

Cases in which the adult is not required to participate in a work-related activity

Child-Only

Cases in which only children are included in the calculation of the cash assistance benefit

Child Under One

Single parent with a child under the age of one

Caring for a Disabled Family Member

Client is caring for a family member with a disability, such as a spouse or child

Needy Caretaker Relative

A non-parent relative who is caring for a child

a disabled family member made up less than 3% of cases in 16 jurisdictions, with Washington County having the highest percentage (5.7%). Three jurisdictions had no closed cases in which the recipient was a needy caretaker relative, and an additional 15 jurisdictions were at or below 2%.

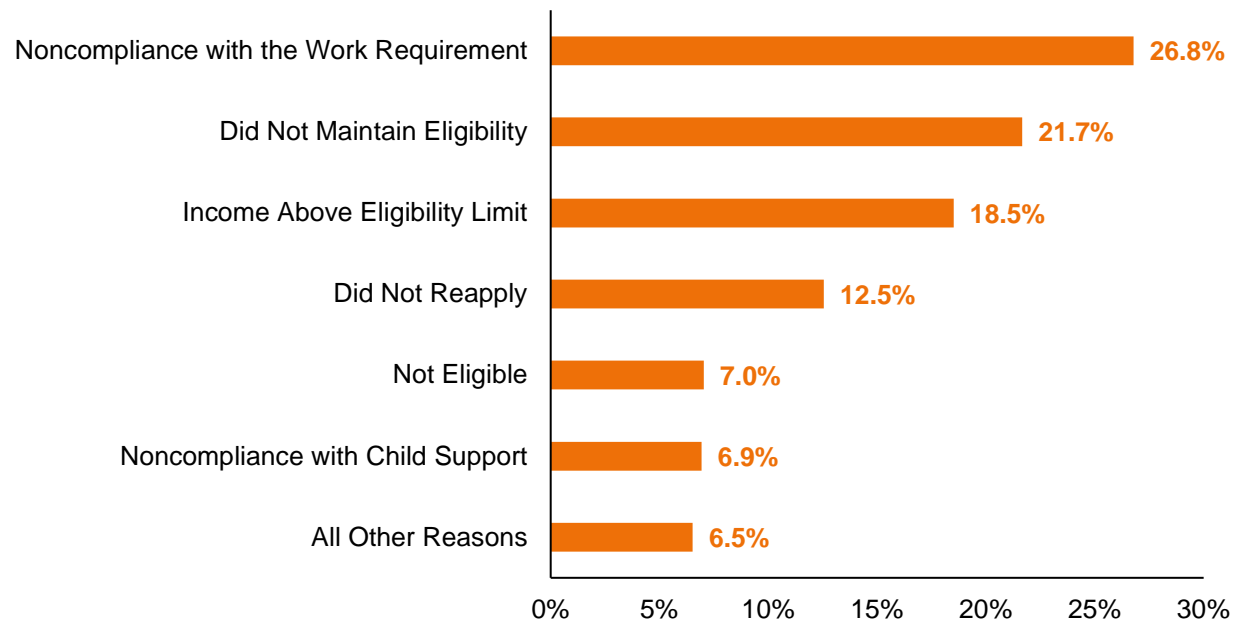
Case Closure Reasons

TCA cases close for a variety of reasons. When these cases close, a caseworker assigns a reason for the closure in the program's administrative database. Closure reasons provide a general description of why a particular family stopped receiving benefits. Some reasons reflect changing circumstances within a family, while others

reflect noncompliance with federally mandated program rules. There are six commonly used categories of closure reasons. Figure 2 shows the percentage of closed cases associated with each closure reason and a final category combining less common reasons.

The most common reason a case closed in 2018 was for noncompliance with the work requirement (26.8%), which is marginally lower than last year's percentage of closures for this reason (27.4%). Recipients on work-eligible TCA cases must participate in work activities for 20 or 30 hours each week. Cases can be closed when recipients do not meet these requirements, though benefits may be reinstated if the recipient eventually becomes compliant.

Figure 2. Case Closure Reasons: Statewide



Note: The All Other Reasons category includes cases that closed due to requested closure, residency, intentional violation, and unknown whereabouts. Each of these reasons represents less than 4% of case closures. Valid percentages are reported.

This closure reason can leave the most vulnerable clients at a disadvantage. Clients whose cases are closed for 30 days due to noncompliance with the work requirement are more likely to have lower educational attainment, lower earnings, and higher rates of returns to TCA than their counterparts (Nicoli, 2016).

Across jurisdictions, Baltimore County had the highest percentage of cases close due to noncompliance with the work requirement (33.4%), and Baltimore City ranked third (30.1%). These two jurisdictions—the largest in the state—likely elevated the state average (26.8%), as 18 jurisdictions were below this average. This closure reason was also the most common closure reason in eight jurisdictions, and it was one of the top three reasons cases closed in 18 jurisdictions.

All TCA recipients are also required to maintain eligibility by routinely providing up-to-date eligibility and verification information to their caseworkers. When recipients do not comply, their cases are closed. Just over one in five cases (21.7%) closed because this information was not provided. Additionally, as TCA recipients' circumstances change, an increase in income could render a family ineligible for TCA. This usually happens because a change in employment causes a recipient to earn an income above their household eligibility limit, although sometimes these case closures reflect an increase in child support payments or approval for disability benefits. Just under one in five cases (18.5%) closed in 2018 for this reason.

Recipients must also regularly recertify their eligibility. Just over one in ten cases (12.5%) closed because the recipients did not reapply for benefits. Another recipient

requirement is to comply with the child support process, if applicable. Failure to cooperate with the process of obtaining child support can lead to case closure. One in 15 cases (6.9%) closed due to noncompliance with child support, the second year in a row the percentage has been at this level. Additionally, 7% of cases closed because the recipient was no longer eligible.

Jurisdictional differences in the frequency of certain closure reasons often reflect the differences in caseload designations in each jurisdiction. For example, jurisdictions with higher percentages of work-eligible cases usually also have a higher percentage of cases that closed due to noncompliance with the work requirement. To illustrate this point, Baltimore County had the highest percentage of cases closed due to noncompliance with the work requirement (33.4%), and 71% of Baltimore County's closed cases were work eligible. On the other hand, Talbot County had the lowest percentage of cases close for this reason (6.6%), and only 51% of Talbot County's closed cases were work-eligible.

Did not maintain eligibility was the top case closure reason for five jurisdictions and was one of the top three reasons for 16 jurisdictions. Calvert County (42.1%) had the highest percentage of cases close for this reason, which was 12 percentage points higher than St. Mary's County (30.2%), the county with the second highest percentage. Somerset County (7.0%) had the lowest percentage of cases close due to failure to maintain eligibility.

Income above eligibility limit was the most common case closure reason in nine jurisdictions and was one of the top three case closure reasons in all but two

jurisdictions. Additionally, the statewide average for income above eligibility limit (18.5%) is lower than the average for all but four jurisdictions. Only 12% of Baltimore City’s closed cases had this reason for closure, the lowest percentage of any jurisdiction, which may explain why the statewide average is lower than in many jurisdictions. In 19 jurisdictions, at least 20% of closed cases stopped receiving benefits due to obtaining income above the eligibility limit. Talbot County had the highest percentage with two in five closures (41.0%).

There were also notable findings for the less common case closure reasons. Did not reapply was the most common case closure reason in one jurisdiction, Washington County (26.8%), and was in the top three reasons in nine counties. The *not eligible* closure reason was more common in small, rural counties. It reached the top three reasons in Caroline (14.3%), Worcester

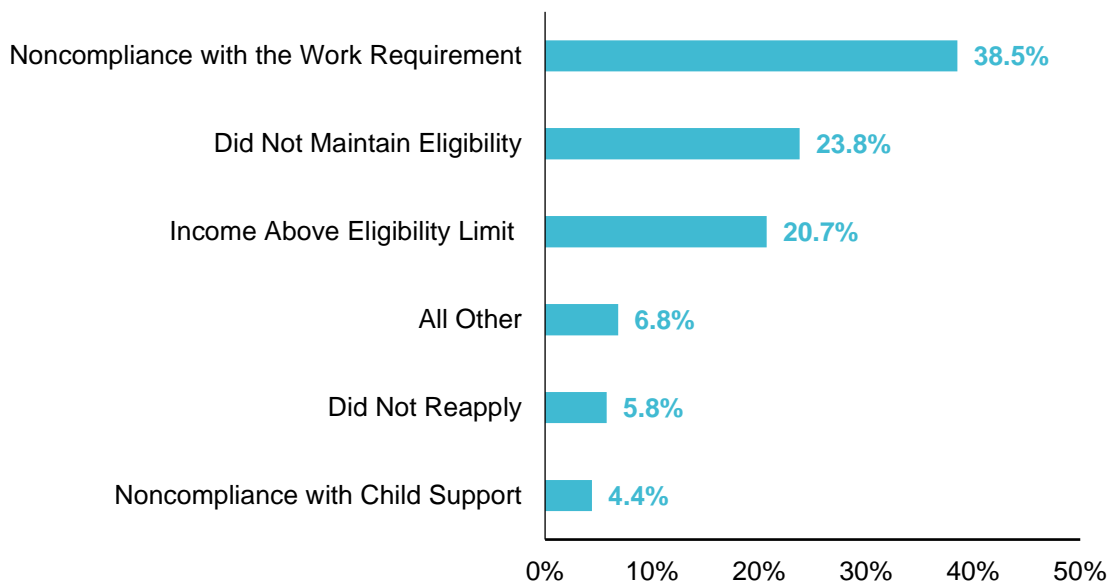
(14.3%), Kent (13.6%), and Calvert (12.6%) counties.

Noncompliance with child support was the most common case closure reason for Prince George’s County (23.4%), although the reason did not even make the top three most common case closure reasons in any other jurisdiction. Despite constituting less than 10% of all closed cases, Prince George’s County had one third of all cases that closed due to noncompliance with child support. Because Prince George’s County has the third largest caseload, it is certainly affecting the statewide average (6.9%). Noncompliance with child support made up less than 4% of closed cases in 10 jurisdictions and between 4% and 5% in another six jurisdictions.

Work-Eligible Closure Reasons

Closure reasons can vary depending on whether adult recipients are required to participate in work activities, so it is

Figure 3. Case Closure Reasons: Work-Eligible Cases



Note: The All Other Reasons category includes cases that closed due to requested closure, death of a head of household or other member, did not cooperate with quality control, and intentional violation. Each of these reasons represents less than 3% of work-eligible closures. Valid percentages are reported.

important to examine work-eligible and work-exempt closed cases separately. Figure 3 displays the percentages of case closure reasons for all work-eligible cases. Noncompliance with the work requirement was the most common case closure reason (38.5%). This is not surprising, as it is also the most common case closure reason among all closed cases, and only work-eligible cases can close for this reason.

Did not maintain eligibility accounted for almost one in four closed cases (23.8%). It is the only case closure reason that increased among work-eligible closed cases, up two percentage points from last year. Income above the eligibility limit made up one in five (20.7%) work-eligible closed cases.

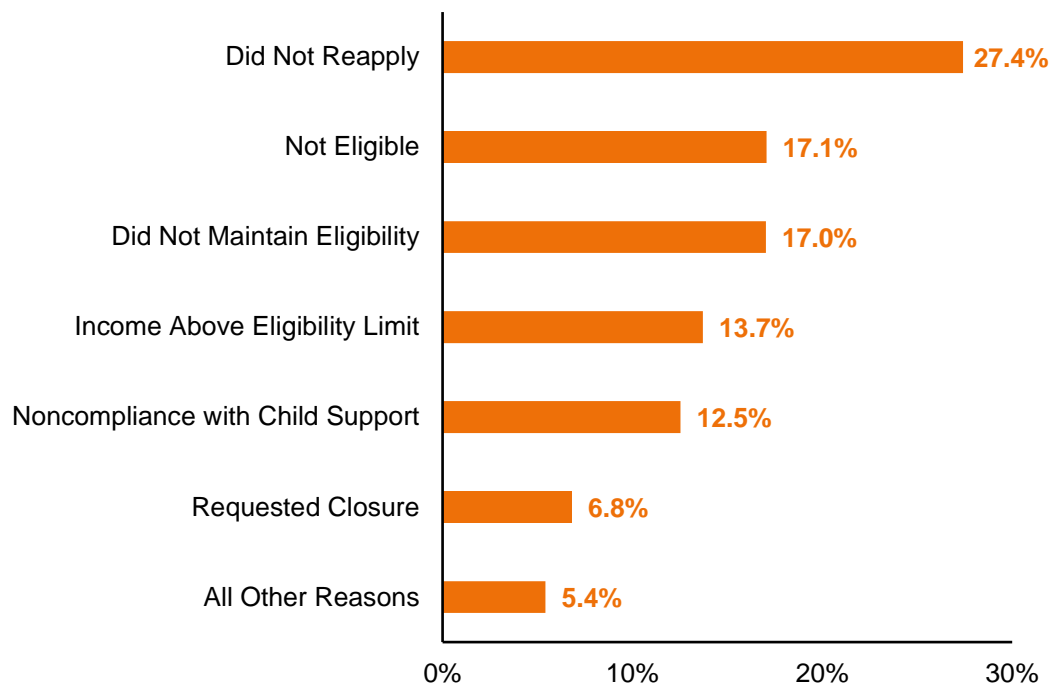
The remaining closure reasons were less common. Cases in which the head of household did not reapply stayed roughly the same as last year, at 6%.

Noncompliance with child support also occurred at the same frequency, at about one in 20 cases (4.4%).

Work-Exempt Closure Reasons

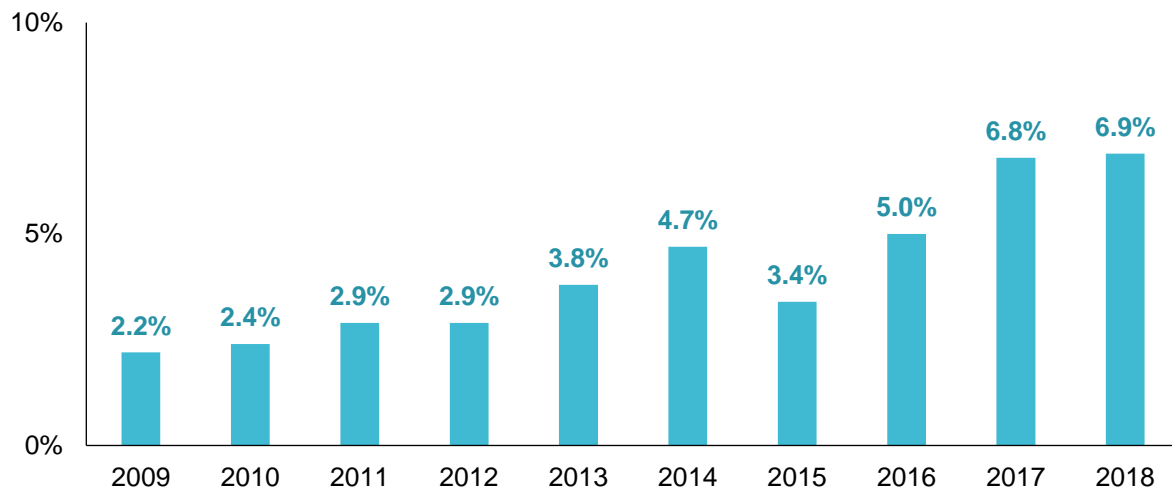
Work-exempt case closures often occur for different reasons than work-eligible closures. One major reason is because work-exempt cases are not subject to federal work requirements, so they cannot be closed for noncompliance with the work requirement. Figure 4 shows case closure reasons for work-exempt cases. The most common closure reason among work-

Figure 4. Case Closure Reasons: Work-Exempt Cases



Note: The All Other Reasons category includes cases that closed due to residency, whereabouts unknown, and non-compliance with the work requirement. Each of these reasons represents less than 2% of work-exempt closed cases. Valid percentages are reported.

Figure 5. Noncompliance with Child Support by Year: Statewide



Note: Valid percentages are reported.

exempt cases was did not reapply (27.4%), which remained about the same as the previous year. The second most common closure reason, not eligible (17.1%), increased by about one percentage point since last year.

Cases in which the head of household did not maintain eligibility made up 17% of work-exempt closed cases, a slight decrease from the prior year. Cases that closed due to income above the eligibility limit (13.7%) remained stable compared to the previous year. Noncompliance with child support (12.5%) increased by roughly one percentage point from last year. Closures requested by the recipient (6.8%) have remained stable since 2016.

Noncompliance with Child Support

TCA recipients are required cooperate with child support proceedings in order to receive assistance. As a condition of receiving TCA, caregivers are required to

pursue child support from nonresident parents. If the head of the household does not cooperate, then the TCA case will be closed. Any child support payments made while the family is receiving TCA are recouped by the state for reimbursement of TCA benefits.⁶

In 2018, closures due to noncompliance with child support (6.9%) remained about the same as the previous year (6.8%). Figure 5 shows that over the past decade, the percentage of cases closing for this reason generally increased. This closure reason experienced slower growth between 2009 and 2014. There was a decrease in 2015, followed by more rapid growth through 2017. Noncompliance with child support remained about the same for work-eligible cases, but it increased slightly among work-exempt cases compared to the prior year.

At the jurisdictional level, there are a few notable changes from last year. Prince

⁶ Beginning in July 2019, some child support will be passed through to families while they receive TCA benefits.

George’s County’s percentage of cases closed for this reason (23.4%) increased 10 percentage points from last year (13.0%), which itself was a six percentage point increase since 2015. Cases closing for this reason in Baltimore City (6.1%) decreased by nearly three percentage points from last year.

Noncompliance with the Work Requirement

Noncompliance with the work requirement was the most common case closure reason in Maryland in 2018, and it has been the most common case closure reason for the past decade. Overall, this reason accounted for about one in four (26.8%) closed cases and about two in five (38.5%) work-eligible closed cases. For these reasons, tracking noncompliance with the work requirement is important because this case closure reason impacts a large number of families (4,617 cases statewide in 2018).

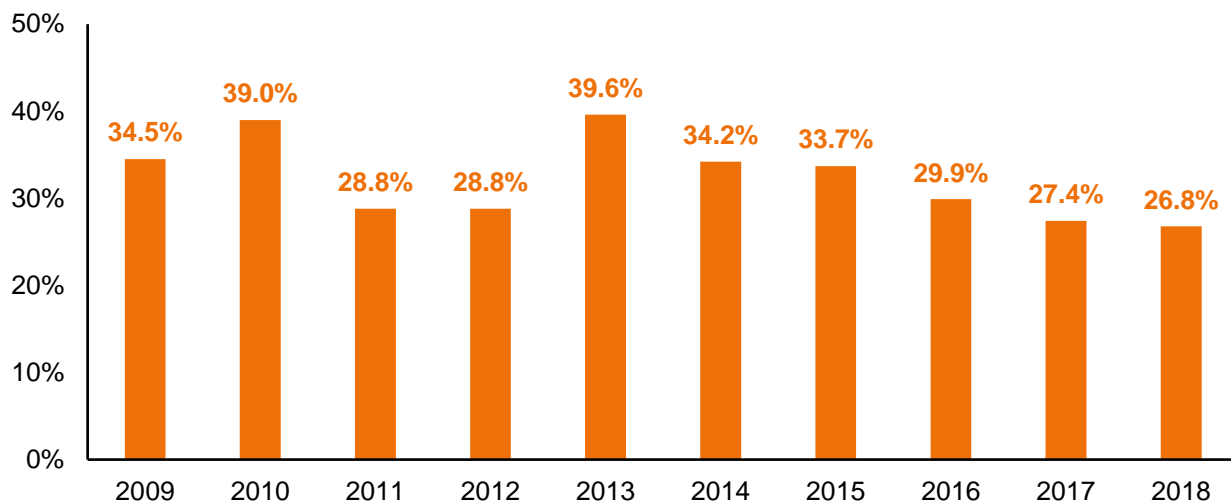
Research suggests that closing cases due to noncompliance with work requirement can negatively impact low-income families.

These impacts can include a greater likelihood of unemployment or low-paying employment after closure (Wu, Cancian, & Wallace, 2014).

The percentage of cases that closed due to noncompliance with the work requirement fell by almost one percentage point since 2017, continuing an incremental decrease that began in 2014. In 2018, 27% of cases closed for this reason, which is the lowest percentage since 2008. Just 24% of cases closed due to noncompliance with the work requirement in that year (Gleason & Passarella, 2017).

Some counties experienced larger one-year changes in their share of cases that closed due to noncompliance with the work requirement. Anne Arundel County (26.6%) decreased by 14 percentage points, Calvert County (11.6%) decreased by seven percentage points, and Kent County (10.2%) decreased by six percentage points between 2017 and 2018. On the other hand, Worcester County (15.6%) increased by 11 percentage points, and both Caroline

Figure 6. Noncompliance with the Work Requirement by Year: Statewide



Note: Valid percentages are reported.

(13.3%) and Howard (28.5%) counties increased by five percentage points between those years.

Although reasons for this trend may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, it is possible the slight decline in this closure reason is linked to an improving economy. Recipients may find it easier to obtain and retain employment or participate in work-related activities when the economy is doing well, leading to fewer cases closed for noncompliance.

Conclusions

Maryland's total number of closed cases has declined for the past six years. Since 2012, closed cases have decreased by nearly 40%. Maryland's five most populous jurisdictions made up about three fourths of closed cases in 2018, and most jurisdictions experienced declines in closed cases.

Half of all closed cases were single parent cases, one in five were child only, and one in 10 were earnings cases. Work-eligible cases (68.6%) were more common than work-exempt cases (31.4%), which has been true for several years.

Closed and open cases had similar case characteristics. Typically, cases had one adult and one child. Compared to open cases, closed cases were more likely to be single-parent cases and less likely to be child-only cases. Additionally, a higher

percentage of closed cases were work-eligible. Both closed and open cases had spells of consecutive receipt of about one year, with total TCA usage adding up to an average of just under two years in the past five years.

Noncompliance with the work requirement remains the most common case closure reason for the 11th year in a row, with over one quarter of all cases closing for this reason. However, the percentage of cases that closed for this reason has declined since 2014.

The percentage of cases that closed due to noncompliance with child support has generally increased each year since 2015, although it plateaued from 2017 to 2018. However, the large percentage of closed cases in Prince George's County that are due to noncompliance with child support is pulling up the statewide average; most jurisdictions fall below the state average.

Due to the noticeable variation in TCA closed cases among Maryland's 24 jurisdictions, we provide an appendix with detailed data on each jurisdiction. Each profile contains data on case characteristics, caseload designations, and closure reasons. These jurisdiction-level tables provide local program administrators with useful information about their program operations for closed cases.

References

- Maryland Department of Human Services. (2008). *Temporary Cash Assistance Manual*. (300 Technical Eligibility).
- Gleason, E. & Passarella, L.L. (2017). *Caseload exits at the local level: October 2015 through September 2016*. Retrieved from the Family Welfare Research and Training Group website: <https://familywelfare.umaryland.edu/reports1/macro20.pdf>
- McColl, R. & Passarella, L.L. (2019). *Life on welfare: Temporary Cash Assistance families and recipients, 2018*. Retrieved from the Family Welfare Research and Training Group website: <https://familywelfare.umaryland.edu/reports1/lifeonwelfare2018.pdf>
- Nicoli, L. (2016). *Are welfare recipients with the most severe work sanction particularly disadvantaged?* Retrieved from the Family Welfare Research and Training Group website: <https://familywelfare.umaryland.edu/reports1/sanctionscharacteristics.pdf>
- Passarella, L.L. (2018). *Temporary Cash Assistance in Maryland: Who are the adults caring for child recipients?* Retrieved from the Family Welfare Research and Training Group website: <https://familywelfare.umaryland.edu/reports1/adultsontcacases.pdf>
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019). *Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Maryland*. Retrieved March 10, 2019. <https://data.bls.gov>
- Wu, C. F., Cancian, M., & Wallace, G. (2014). The effect of welfare sanctions on TANF exits and employment. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 36, 1-14. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2013.10

APPENDIX: JURISDICTIONAL TABLES

Allegany County: FFY 2018		302 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-10.7% (-36)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		3.3%
1		44.4%
2		31.8%
3 or more		20.5%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		19.5%
1		67.2%
2		13.2%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		10.9 [6]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		21.6 [16]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		67.2%
Included in Federal WPR		57.9%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		9.3%
Work-Exempt Cases		32.8%
Child-Only		19.9%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		12.9%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		22.2%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		20.5%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		17.5%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		20.5%
2017		18.0%
2016		21.3%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		0.3%
2017		0.0%
2016		0.6%

Anne Arundel County: FFY 2018		1,115 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-5.5% (-65)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		2.8%
1		45.7%
2		27.7%
3 or more		23.8%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		23.9%
1		72.7%
2		3.3%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		12.2 [6]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		20.2 [13]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		63.9%
Included in Federal WPR		61.7%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		2.2%
Work-Exempt Cases		36.1%
Child-Only		24.0%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		12.1%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		26.6%
Eligibility Information Not Provided		23.8%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		20.4%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		26.6%
2017		40.2%
2016		38.6%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		4.4%
2017		4.9%
2016		6.3%

Baltimore City: FFY 2018		6,898 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-13.4% (-1,063)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		3.2%
1		45.7%
2		27.4%
3 or more		23.6%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		15.6%
1		81.7%
2		2.6%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		10.9 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		26.6 [23]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		73.9%
Included in Federal WPR		71.8%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		2.0%
Work-Exempt Cases		26.1%
Child-Only		15.6%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		10.5%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		30.1%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		28.5%
Did Not Reapply		13.0%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		30.1%
2017		30.3%
2016		32.2%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		6.1%
2017		8.9%
2016		5.6%

Baltimore County: FFY 2018	2,156 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year	-10.6% (-256)
Case Characteristics	
Recipient Children	
0	2.5%
1	46.0%
2	27.1%
3 or more	24.4%
Recipient Adults	
0 (children only)	19.2%
1	76.6%
2	4.2%
Months of TCA Receipt	
Average [Median] TCA Spell	10.5 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60	22.8 [17]
Caseload Designations	
Work-Eligible Cases	
71.7%	
Included in Federal WPR	67.9%
Other Work-Eligible Cases	3.7%
Work-Exempt Cases	
28.3%	
Child-Only	19.4%
Other Work-Exempt Cases	9.0%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons	
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	33.4%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit	25.6%
Did Not Reapply	13.1%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	
2018	33.4%
2017	30.9%
2016	34.5%
Noncompliance with Child Support	
2018	5.4%
2017	3.9%
2016	2.8%

Calvert County: FFY 2018	95 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year	0.0% (0)
Case Characteristics	
Recipient Children	
0	0.0%
1	43.2%
2	35.8%
3 or more	21.1%
Recipient Adults	
0 (children only)	28.4%
1	64.2%
2	7.4%
Months of TCA Receipt	
Average [Median] TCA Spell	13.5 [4]
Average [Median] in Previous 60	17.9 [10]
Caseload Designations	
Work-Eligible Cases	
	58.9%
Included in Federal WPR	53.7%
Other Work-Eligible Cases	5.3%
Work-Exempt Cases	
	41.1%
Child-Only	28.4%
Other Work-Exempt Cases	12.6%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons	
Did Not Maintain Eligibility	41.2%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit	21.1%
Not Eligible	12.6%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	
2018	11.6%
2017	18.9%
2016	11.8%
Noncompliance with Child Support	
2018	4.2%
2017	2.1%
2016	0.0%

Caroline County: FFY 2018	98 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year	+6.5% (+6)
Case Characteristics	
Recipient Children	
0	0.0%
1	49.0%
2	27.6%
3 or more	23.5%
Recipient Adults	
0 (children only)	44.9%
1	51.0%
2	4.1%
Months of TCA Receipt	
Average [Median] TCA Spell	18.5 [8.5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60	25.6 [22]
Caseload Designations	
Work-Eligible Cases	42.9%
Included in Federal WPR	38.8%
Other Work-Eligible Cases	4.1%
Work-Exempt Cases	57.1%
Child-Only	44.9%
Other Work-Exempt Cases	12.2%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons	
Income Above the Eligibility Limit	27.6%
Did Not Reapply	18.4%
Not Eligible	14.3%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	
2018	13.3%
2017	8.7%
2016	11.2%
Noncompliance with Child Support	
2018	4.1%
2017	1.1%
2016	4.1%

Carroll County: FFY 2018		123 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-10.2% (-14)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		3.3%
1		48.0%
2		25.2%
3 or more		23.6%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		33.3%
1		61.0%
2		5.7%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		13.5 [6]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		18.8 [12]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		56.6%
Included in Federal WPR		53.3%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		3.3%
Work-Exempt Cases		43.4%
Child-Only		32.8%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		10.7%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		28.5%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		25.2%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		15.4%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		15.4%
2017		18.2%
2016		20.8%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		4.1%
2017		0.0%
2016		0.0%

Cecil County: FFY 2018		365 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-15.7% (-68)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		3.0%
1		49.9%
2		28.5%
3 or more		18.6%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		31.5%
1		64.1%
2		4.4%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		13.6 [7]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		22.7 [16]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		58.2%
Included in Federal WPR		56.0%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		2.2%
Work-Exempt Cases		41.8%
Child-Only		31.0%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		10.7%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		23.6%
Did Not Reapply		19.5%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		16.7%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		23.6%
2017		27.5%
2016		28.3%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		1.4%
2017		0.7%
2016		2.6%

Charles County: FFY 2018		289 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-12.4% (-41)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		2.4%
1		44.6%
2		33.2%
3 or more		19.7%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		24.2%
1		73.4%
2		2.4%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		8.9 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		16.7 [11]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		58.8%
Included in Federal WPR		58.5%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		0.3%
Work-Exempt Cases		41.2%
Child-Only		24.2%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		17.0%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		26.0%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		24.9%
Did Not Reapply		15.2%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		11.4%
2017		15.5%
2016		18.8%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		5.2%
2017		3.3%
2016		1.6%

Dorchester County: FFY 2018		122 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-9.0% (-12)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		4.9%
1		33.6%
2		33.6%
3 or more		27.9%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		29.5%
1		62.3%
2		8.2%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		13.2 [6]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		23.5 [15.5]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		66.4%
Included in Federal WPR		58.2%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		8.2%
Work-Exempt Cases		33.6%
Child-Only		28.7%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		4.9%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		30.3%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		20.5%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		11.5%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		30.3%
2017		32.8%
2016		27.4%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		8.2%
2017		6.0%
2016		7.4%

Frederick County: FFY 2018	293 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year	-4.9% (-15)
Case Characteristics	
Recipient Children	
0	3.4%
1	41.0%
2	31.7%
3 or more	23.9%
Recipient Adults	
0 (children only)	25.6%
1	68.6%
2	5.8%
Months of TCA Receipt	
Average [Median] TCA Spell	10.7 [4]
Average [Median] in Previous 60	16.8 [10]
Caseload Designations	
Work-Eligible Cases	
62.5%	
Included in Federal WPR	57.7%
Other Work-Eligible Cases	4.8%
Work-Exempt Cases	
37.5%	
Child-Only	25.6%
Other Work-Exempt Cases	11.9%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons	
Income Above the Eligibility Limit	30.4%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	19.1%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility	17.1%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	
2018	19.1%
2017	19.8%
2016	24.9%
Noncompliance with Child Support	
2018	2.7%
2017	5.5%
2016	4.5%

Garrett County: FFY 2018	48 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year	-9.4% (-5)
Case Characteristics	
Recipient Children	
0	2.1%
1	43.8%
2	35.4%
3 or more	18.8%
Recipient Adults	
0 (children only)	33.3%
1	52.1%
2	14.6%
Months of TCA Receipt	
Average [Median] TCA Spell	13.2 [6]
Average [Median] in Previous 60	17.0 [10]
Caseload Designations	
Work-Eligible Cases	
	56.3%
Included in Federal WPR	45.8%
Other Work-Eligible Cases	10.4%
Work-Exempt Cases	
	43.8%
Child-Only	35.4%
Other Work-Exempt Cases	8.3%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons	
Income Above the Eligibility Limit	29.2%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility	25.0%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	16.7%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	
2018	16.7%
2017	20.8%
2016	17.3%
Noncompliance with Child Support	
2018	0.0%
2017	3.8%
2016	0.0%

Harford County: FFY 2018		463 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		+15.2% (+61)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		1.5%
1		46.4%
2		27.0%
3 or more		25.1%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		29.4%
1		66.7%
2		3.9%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		12.2 [6]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		20.4 [13]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		58.3%
Included in Federal WPR		54.6%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		3.7%
Work-Exempt Cases		41.7%
Child-Only		29.4%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		12.3%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		23.8%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		22.0%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		20.5%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		23.8%
2017		25.1%
2016		22.1%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		5.8%
2017		2.7%
2016		3.6%

Howard County: FFY 2018		347 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-11.7% (-46)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		1.7%
1		45.2%
2		26.5%
3 or more		26.5%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		19.6%
1		76.7%
2		3.7%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		9.8 [7]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		23.8 [18]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		72.6%
Included in Federal WPR		68.6%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		4.0%
Work-Exempt Cases		27.4%
Child-Only		19.6%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		7.8%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		28.5%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		21.9%
Did Not Reapply		17.6%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		28.5%
2017		23.7%
2016		25.5%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		6.1%
2017		5.1%
2016		3.4%

Kent County: FFY 2018		59 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-4.8% (-3)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		0.0%
1		52.5%
2		27.1%
3 or more		20.3%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		28.8%
1		67.8%
2		3.4%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		10.2 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		20.1 [15]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		61.0%
Included in Federal WPR		59.3%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		1.7%
Work-Exempt Cases		39.0%
Child-Only		28.8%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		10.2%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		33.9%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		18.6%
Not Eligible		13.6%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		10.2%
2017		16.1%
2016		26.6%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		0.0%
2017		0.0%
2016		1.6%

Montgomery County: FFY 2018	941 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year	-2.4% (-23)
Case Characteristics	
Recipient Children	
0	2.4%
1	41.9%
2	27.6%
3 or more	28.1%
Recipient Adults	
0 (children only)	19.6%
1	69.3%
2	11.2%
Months of TCA Receipt	
Average [Median] TCA Spell	10.0 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60	17.7 [11]
Caseload Designations	
Work-Eligible Cases	
	69.8%
Included in Federal WPR	54.6%
Other Work-Eligible Cases	15.2%
Work-Exempt Cases	
	30.2%
Child-Only	19.6%
Other Work-Exempt Cases	10.6%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons	
Income Above the Eligibility Limit	28.2%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	27.0%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility	17.4%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	
2018	27.0%
2017	27.5%
2016	34.4%
Noncompliance with Child Support	
2018	7.3%
2017	6.8%
2016	8.1%

Prince George's County: FFY 2018		1,669 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-4.9% (-86)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		2.4%
1		43.1%
2		27.5%
3 or more		27.0%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		24.1%
1		67.5%
2		8.4%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		11.0 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		20.2 [12]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		61.7%
Included in Federal WPR		52.8%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		8.9%
Work-Exempt Cases		38.3%
Child-Only		24.1%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		14.2%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with Child Support		23.4%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		22.4%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		19.4%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		22.4%
2017		22.3%
2016		27.2%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		23.4%
2017		13.0%
2016		7.2%

Queen Anne's County: FFY 2018		61 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-15.3% (-11)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		4.9%
1		49.2%
2		36.1%
3 or more		9.8%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		34.4%
1		63.9%
2		1.6%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		15.0 [10]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		21.7 [15]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		55.7%
Included in Federal WPR		52.5%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		3.3%
Work-Exempt Cases		44.3%
Child-Only		34.4%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		9.8%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		23.0%
Did Not Reapply		21.3%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		19.7%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		14.8%
2017		11.1%
2016		15.4%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		3.3%
2017		6.9%
2016		0.0%

St. Mary's County: FFY 2018		440 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		+8.6% (+35)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		2.7%
1		39.8%
2		30.7%
3 or more		26.8%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		18.6%
1		73.2%
2		8.2%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		9.1 [4]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		20.6 [15]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		74.3%
Included in Federal WPR		67.5%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		6.8%
Work-Exempt Cases		25.7%
Child-Only		18.4%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		7.3%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		30.2%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		24.1%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		17.5%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		17.5%
2017		14.3%
2016		18.1%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		3.6%
2017		2.2%
2016		3.4%

Somerset County: FFY 2018		129 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-10.4% (-15)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		2.3%
1		37.2%
2		22.5%
3 or more		38.0%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		16.3%
1		75.2%
2		8.5%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		11.6 [7]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		22.9 [20]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		71.1%
Included in Federal WPR		64.8%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		6.3%
Work-Exempt Cases		28.9%
Child-Only		16.4%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		12.5%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		30.2%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		25.6%
Requested Closure		14.0%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		25.6%
2017		29.9%
2016		30.1%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		3.1%
2017		4.2%
2016		4.6%

Talbot County: FFY 2018		61 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		+1.7% (+1)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		0.0%
1		49.2%
2		31.1%
3 or more		19.7%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		36.1%
1		62.3%
2		1.6%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		12.3 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		16.4 [9]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		50.8%
Included in Federal WPR		49.2%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		1.6%
Work-Exempt Cases		49.2%
Child-Only		36.1%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		13.1%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		41.0%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		14.8%
Requested Closure		14.8%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		6.6%
2017		10.0%
2016		9.3%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		4.9%
2017		6.7%
2016		4.7%

Washington County: FFY 2018		609 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-11.4% (-78)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		2.8%
1		43.8%
2		29.9%
3 or more		23.5%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		23.6%
1		72.6%
2		3.8%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		11.1 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		21.9 [16]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		56.3%
Included in Federal WPR		53.5%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		2.8%
Work-Exempt Cases		43.7%
Child-Only		23.8%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		19.9%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Did Not Reapply		26.8%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		24.3%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		13.3%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		13.3%
2017		12.4%
2016		14.6%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		0.7%
2017		0.6%
2016		1.3%

Wicomico County: FFY 2018		484 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-7.6% (-40)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		2.3%
1		39.7%
2		30.6%
3 or more		27.5%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		21.3%
1		70.9%
2		7.9%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		11.0 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		22.6 [16]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		67.4%
Included in Federal WPR		59.1%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		8.3%
Work-Exempt Cases		32.6%
Child-Only		21.5%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		11.2%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		28.5%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		21.5%
Did Not Reapply		13.6%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		28.5%
2017		22.3%
2016		29.6%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		4.3%
2017		5.2%
2016		4.5%

Worcester County: FFY 2018	77 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year	+14.9% (+10)
Case Characteristics	
Recipient Children	
0	1.3%
1	44.2%
2	31.2%
3 or more	23.4%
Recipient Adults	
0 (children only)	32.5%
1	62.3%
2	5.2%
Months of TCA Receipt	
Average [Median] TCA Spell	16.4 [7]
Average [Median] in Previous 60	20.2 [12]
Caseload Designations	
Work-Eligible Cases	
	51.9%
Included in Federal WPR	46.8%
Other Work-Eligible Cases	5.2%
Work-Exempt Cases	
	48.1%
Child-Only	33.8%
Other Work-Exempt Cases	14.3%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons	
Income Above the Eligibility Limit	29.9%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	15.6%
Not Eligible	14.3%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement	
2018	15.6%
2017	4.5%
2016	7.3%
Noncompliance with Child Support	
2018	1.3%
2017	4.5%
2016	7.3%

Maryland: FFY 2018		17,244 Case Closures
Percent Change in Case Closures from Previous Year		-9.3% (-1,769)
Case Characteristics		
Recipient Children		
0		2.8%
1		44.8%
2		28.0%
3 or more		24.4%
Recipient Adults		
0 (children only)		20.1%
1		75.2%
2		4.7%
Months of TCA Receipt		
Average [Median] TCA Spell		11.0 [5]
Average [Median] in Previous 60		23.1 [18]
Caseload Designations		
Work-Eligible Cases		68.6%
Included in Federal WPR		64.3%
Other Work-Eligible Cases		4.3%
Work-Exempt Cases		31.4%
Child-Only		20.1%
Other Work-Exempt Cases		11.2%
Top Three Case Closure Reasons		
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		26.8%
Did Not Maintain Eligibility		21.7%
Income Above the Eligibility Limit		18.5%
Noncompliance with the Work Requirement		
2018		26.8%
2017		27.4%
2016		29.9%
Noncompliance with Child Support		
2018		6.9%
2017		6.8%
2016		5.0%

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank Jamie Haskel and Somlak Suvanasorn for their assistance in the collection and processing of data for this research brief. This brief was prepared by the Family Welfare Research and Training Group with support from its long time research partner, the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

For additional information about this research brief, please contact Dr. Lisa Thiebaud Nicoli (410-706-2763; lnicoli@ssw.umaryland.edu) or Letitia Logan Passarella (410-706-2479; llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu) at the School of Social Work.

Please visit <https://familywelfare.umaryland.edu/> for additional copies of this brief and other reports.



525 W. Redwood Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-706-2479
<https://familywelfare.umaryland.edu>